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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **STER-LITE OPTICAL TECHNOLOGIES LTD.** [IN/IN]; E-1, MIDC, Waluj, Aurangabad 431 136 (IN).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CHANGDAR, Samaresh** [IN/IN]; Of Sterlite Optical Technologies

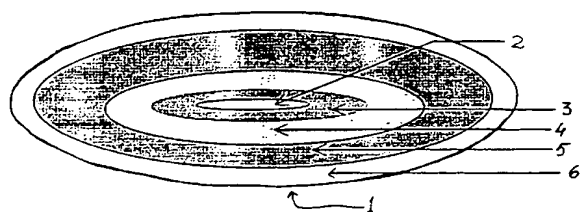
Ltd., E-1, MIDC, Waluj, Aurangabad 431 136 (IN). **BHATIA, Sanjit, Singh** [IN/IN]; Of Sterlite Optical Technologies Ltd., E-1, MIDC, Waluj, Aurangabad 431 136 (IN). **NAGESWARAN, Senthil, Kumar** [IN/IN]; Of Sterlite Optical Technologies Ltd., E-1, MIDC, Waluj, Aurangabad 431 136 (IN). **SATYAN, Prakash** [IN/IN]; Of Sterlite Optical Technologies Ltd., E-1, MIDC, Waluj, Aurangabad 431 136 (IN). **AGARWAL, Ashok** [IN/IN]; Of Sterlite Optical Technologies Ltd., E-1, MIDC, Waluj, Aurangabad 431 136 (IN).

(74) Agents: **MEHTA, Ramesh, Kumar et al.**; Remfry & Sagar, Attorneys-at-Law, Remfry House, 8 Nangal Raya Business Centre, New Delhi 110 046 (IN).

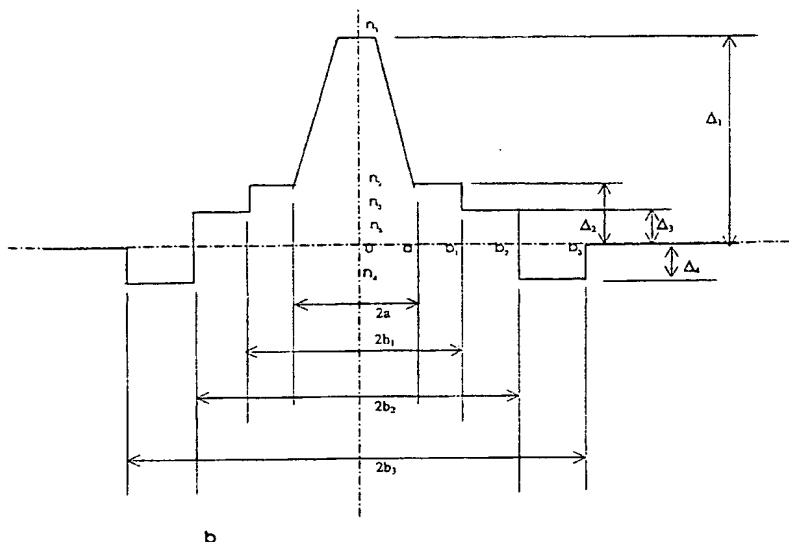
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(54) Title: DISPERSION OPTIMIZED FIBER WITH LOW DISPERSION AND OPTICAL LOSS



a



b

(57) Abstract: A dispersion optimized fiber comprising a centre core, two side cores, a cladding and a outer glass, wherein first side core is provided onto outer periphery of center core, second side core is provided onto outer periphery of first side core and cladding region is provided onto outer periphery of second side core is disclosed, wherein centre core, first side core, second side core and cladding region have n_1 , n_2 , n_3 and n_4 refractive index respectively and $2a$, $2b_1$, $2b_2$ and $2b_3$ outer diameter respectively.. The refractive index of outer glass is n_5 and its diameter is selected to suit the requirement of desired fiber. The refractive indexes of said members are characterized by relationship $n_4 < n_5 < n_3 < n_2 < n_1$, and outer diameters of each member are characterized by $5.1 \geq 2a \geq 6.2 \mu\text{m}$, $7 \geq 2b_1 \geq 9 \mu\text{m}$, $13 \geq 2b_2 \geq 15 \mu\text{m}$, $19 \geq 2b_3 \geq 22 \mu\text{m}$ relationships.



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TITLE OF INVENTION

Dispersion Optimized Fiber with Low Dispersion and Optical Loss

5 **Technical Field**

The present invention relates to dispersion optimized fiber with low dispersion and optical loss, particularly it relates to a dispersion optimized fiber to provide low dispersion and optical loss between 1530 to 1565 nm (C-band) transmissions, more particularly it relates to single mode dispersion optimized fiber, which is suitable for transmission of higher bandwidth over long distances and yet has optimized effective area, cut-off wavelength and mode field diameter to achieve a high level of bend resistance for high bandwidth transmission.

15 **Background Art**

Over the last decade, the optical fibers have been developed and installed as the backbone of interoffice networks for voice, video and data transmission. These are becoming important with growing and expanding telecommunication infrastructure. Their importance is further increasing because of their high bandwidth applicability. The higher bandwidth demand is further increasing exponentially with time because of rapid growth of information technology.

Conventionally, the multi-mode fiber at wavelength of 850 nm were used, which were replaced by single mode fibers with zero dispersion wavelength near 1310 nm. The single mode or monomode optical fibers have greater bandwidth than that of the multimode fibers. Therefore, the research has been directed towards the development of the single mode fibers, as these fibers were observed to have lower attenuation between the wavelength range from 1300 nm to 1550 nm. The transmission loss of single mode fibers is observed to be as low as 0.5 dB/km at 1300 nm wavelength and 0.2 dB/km at 1550 nm wavelength.

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However, when single wavelength moved through 1550 nm window for lower attenuation, the single mode fibers were observed to have very high dispersion.

5 The major disadvantage of the single mode fibers with high dispersion at 1550 nm was that, it obstructed higher bit rate transmission. This disadvantage of single mode fibers has been overcome by the improved single mode fibers, known as dispersion shifted fibers, which have zero dispersion even when the wavelength shifted to 1550 nm.

10 In the prior art the optical fibers with minimum attenuation of light transmission and the dispersion shifted fibers with zero dispersion in the wavelength region of 1500 nm to 1600 nm band are being used. The fibers with simple step like refractive index profile have poor practical advantages. The dispersion shifted fibers with convex refractive index profile have better practical
15 advantages and less flexural loss.

The known dispersion shifted fibers have higher refractive index in the center core and lower refractive index in the outer region. The relative difference in the refractive index is achieved by using different dopants. The commonly used
20 dopants are germanium and fluorine, however, their flow rate and the temperature of doping are different in different known methods. The specific refractive index profile having selected refractive indexes and outer diameters of core and cladding region of the optical fiber is decided by the selection of dopants, their flow rates and temperatures of doping of the core and/or cladding
25 regions, demarcation of core region into one or more core regions with one or more set of refractive indexes, the demarcation of cladding region into one or more cladding regions with one or more set of refractive indexes, the shape of core and cladding regions etc. These parameters decide the characteristic properties of thus obtained fiber and the applications of thus obtained fiber.

30

Therefore, the fibers known in the art are distinguished by way of their characteristic properties, which in-turn are decided by various parameters as

stated herein above. The fibers as known in the prior art either have low non-linearity but high bend loss or have low bend loss but less effective area or may have higher non-linearity and higher bend loss.

5 Therefore, the attempt had been to develop the fiber, which will have optimum characteristic properties, that is which will not sacrifice one of the characteristic property to achieve another characteristic property.

Objects of the Invention

10

The main object of the present invention is to make a complete disclosure of a dispersion optimized fiber, which has low dispersion and optical loss, particularly between 1530 to 1565 nm wavelength band.

15

The another object of the present invention is to make a complete disclosure of a dispersion optimized fiber, which is suitable for long haul transmission.

20

Still another object of the present invention is to make a disclosure of a dispersion optimized fiber which not only has low dispersion and optical loss in 1530 to 1565 nm wavelength band but also has optimized effective area, cut-off wavelength and mode field diameter.

25

This is further an object of the present invention to make a disclosure of a dispersion optimized fiber which not only has high level of bend resistance for high bandwidth transmission but also has minimized non-linearities and low chromatic dispersion.

30

The other objects and preferred embodiments and advantages of the present invention will be more apparent from the following description when it is read in conjunction with the accompanying figures which are not intended to limit the scope of the present invention.

Brief Disclosure of the Invention

In accordance to the present invention dispersion optimized fiber with low
5 dispersion and optical loss between 1530 to 1565 nm (C-band) transmissions,
particularly a dispersion optimized fiber, which is suitable for transmission of
higher bandwidth over long distances and yet has optimized effective area, cut-
off wavelength and mode field diameter, herein after referred to as MFD, to
achieve a high level of bend resistance for high bandwidth transmission,
10 minimized non-linearities and low chromatic dispersion with a low optical loss in
the C-Band region is disclosed comprising a centre core, two side cores, a
cladding region and an outer glass, wherein the first side core is provided onto the
outer periphery of the center core, second side core is provided onto the outer
periphery of the first side core and cladding region is provided onto the outer
15 periphery of the second side core. According to the present invention the centre
core, first side core, second side core and cladding region have n_1 , n_2 , n_3 and n_4
refractive index respectively and $2a$, $2b_1$, $2b_2$ and $2b_3$ outer diameter respectively.
The refractive index of outer glass is n_5 and its diameter is selected to suit the
requirement of desired fiber. The refractive indexes of said members are
20 characterized by relationship $n_4 < n_5 < n_3 < n_2 < n_1$, and outer diameters of each
member are characterized by $5.1 \geq 2a \geq 6.2 \mu\text{m}$, $7 \geq 2b_1 \geq 9 \mu\text{m}$, $13 \geq 2b_2 \geq 15 \mu\text{m}$,
 $19 \geq 2b_3 \geq 22 \mu\text{m}$ relationships.

In accordance to the preferred embodiment of the present invention the
25 cladding region is depressed cladding region and the side cores have lower
refractive index than the center core. The refractive index of centre core, two side
cores are positive and refractive index of cladding region is negative with respect
to the refractive index of outer glass.

30 The other preferred embodiments and the advantages of the present
invention will be more apparent from the following description when it is read in

conjunction with the accompanying figures which are not intended to limit the scope of the present invention.

Brief Description of the Figures

5

Figure 1a of figure 1 shows a cut-section of dispersion optimized fiber in accordance to the preferred embodiments of the present invention.

Figure 1b of figure 1 shows the refractive index profile of dispersion
10 optimized fiber in accordance to the preferred embodiments of the present invention.

Figure 2 shows the chromatic dispersion in the C-band region of
15 dispersion optimized fiber in accordance to the preferred embodiments of the present invention.

Figure 3 shows the cut-off wavelength, using 2m-fiber as a reference
length and measured on spectral analyzer, of the dispersion optimized fiber in
20 accordance to the preferred embodiments of the present invention.

20

Figure 4 shows the intensity distribution along the diameter of the
presently disclosed fiber for measuring the MFD of dispersion optimized fiber in
accordance to the preferred embodiments of the present invention.

Figure 5 shows the attenuation spectra of dispersion optimized fiber in
25 accordance to the preferred embodiments of the present invention.

Detailed Description and Preferred Embodiments of Invention

30 Now referring to figure 1a showing a cut-section of dispersion optimized fiber in accordance to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, the dispersion optimized fiber 1 comprises of a centre core 2, two side cores 3 and 4,

which are referred to as first side core 3 and second side core 4, a cladding region 5 and an outer glass 6, and in accordance to the present invention the first side core 3 is provided onto the outer periphery of the center core 2, second side core 4 is provided onto the outer periphery of the first side core 3, cladding region 5 is provided onto the outer periphery of the second side core 4 and outer glass 6 is provided onto the outer periphery of the cladding region 5.

Now referring to figure 1b, which shows the refractive index profile of dispersion optimized fiber in accordance to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, centre core 2 has refractive index n_1 , the first side core 3 has refractive index n_2 , the second side core 4 has refractive index n_3 , the cladding region 5 has refractive index n_4 and the outer glass 6 has refractive index n_5 , and the centre core 2 has outer diameter $2a$, the first side core 3 has outer diameter $2b_1$, the second side core 4 has outer diameter $2b_2$, the cladding region 5 has outer diameter $2b_3$. The diameter of the outer glass 6 can be selected to suit the requirement of desired dispersion optimized fiber.

In accordance to the present invention the relative refractive index difference between center core 2 and outer glass 6 is Δ_1 , the relative refractive index difference between first side core 3 and outer glass 6 is Δ_2 , the relative refractive index difference between second side core 4 and outer glass 6 is Δ_3 and the relative refractive index difference between cladding region 5 and outer glass 6 is Δ_4 , that is $\Delta_1 = n_1 - n_5$, $\Delta_2 = n_2 - n_5$, $\Delta_3 = n_3 - n_5$, $\Delta_4 = n_4 - n_5$.

In accordance to one of the preferred embodiments of the present invention the refractive index of center core 2, side cores 3 and 4, cladding region 5 and outer glass are characterized by the following relationship –

$$n_4 < n_5 < n_3 < n_2 < n_1,$$

which indicates that the refractive indexes n_2 , n_3 , and n_4 of first side core 3, second side core 4 and cladding region 5 respectively are lower than the refractive index n_1 of the center core 2, and the refractive index n_4 of cladding region 5 is also lower than the refractive index n_5 of the outer glass 6. The refractive indexes n_1 ,

n_2 and n_3 of center core 2, first side core 3 and second side core 4 respectively are positive, and refractive index n_4 of cladding region 5 is negative with respect to the refractive index n_5 of outer glass 6, which is assigned zero value as reference.

5

In accordance to still another preferred embodiment of the present invention the cladding region 5 is depressed cladding region.

In accordance to another preferred embodiment of the present invention
10 the relative refractive index differences Δ_1 , Δ_2 , Δ_3 and Δ_4 between center core 2 and outer glass 6, between first side core 3 and outer glass 6, between second side core 4 and outer glass 6 and between cladding region 5 and outer glass 6 respectively are characterised by the following relationships :

$$\begin{aligned} 15 \quad & 0.009 \geq \Delta_1 \geq 0.0135 \\ & 0.0009 \geq \Delta_2 \geq 0.0019 \\ & 0.0005 \geq \Delta_3 \geq 0.0009 \\ & -0.0001 \geq \Delta_4 \geq -0.0006 \end{aligned}$$

20 and Δ_1 , Δ_2 and Δ_3 are positive, and Δ_4 is negative with reference to outer glass 6.

In accordance to the preferred embodiment of the present invention the outer diameters of the centre core 2, first side core 3, second side core 4 and cladding region 5 are characterised by following relationships :

25

$$\begin{aligned} & 5.1 \geq 2a \geq 6.2 \mu\text{m} \\ & 7 \geq 2b_1 \geq 9 \mu\text{m} \\ & 13 \geq 2b_2 \geq 15 \mu\text{m} \\ & 19 \geq 2b_3 \geq 22 \mu\text{m} \end{aligned}$$

30

The ratio of radius 'b₁' of first side core 3 and of radius 'a' of centre core 2 [b₁/a] is about 1.5 ± 0.2 , the ratio of radius 'b₂' of second side core 4 and of radius 'a' of centre core 2 [b₂/a] is about 2.5 ± 0.2 , the ratio of radius 'b₃' of cladding region 5 and of radius 'a' of centre core 2 [b₃/a] is about 3.7 ± 0.2 .

5

The presently disclosed dispersion optimized fiber having the profile as described and disclosed herein above has attenuation less than or equal to about 0.22 dB/km at 1550 nm, mode field diameter about 8.4 to 9.4 micrometer at 1550 nm, the effective area between about 55 to 65 micron² at 1550 nm, the cut-off wavelength less than about 1250 nm, the chromatic dispersion between about 2 to 8 ps/nm-km in 1530 – 1565 nm range, the polarized mode dispersion less than about 0.25 ps/km^{0.5} and the microbending loss less than about 0.04 dB at 1550 nm. Further, the dispersion slope of the presently disclosed dispersion optimized fiber is about 0.060 ± 0.015 ps/nm²km over the predefined wavelength region and the zero chromatic dispersion lies in between about 1470 – 1510 nm wavelength region.

It is observed from the foregoing description that the dispersion optimized fiber as disclosed in the present invention has low dispersion and optical loss between 1530 to 1565 nm (C-band) transmissions and is suitable for transmission of higher bandwidth over long distances.

The presently disclosed dispersion optimized fiber not only has optimized effective area, cut-off wave length and mode field diameter but also has achieved a high level of bend resistance for high bandwidth transmission, minimized nonlinearities and low chromatic dispersion with a low optical loss in the C-Band region.

In accordance to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the center core 2 of the presently disclosed dispersion optimized fiber 1 is doped with germanium doped in SiO₂, the first side core 3 is doped with germanium and fluorine doped in SiO₂, the second side core 4 is doped with germanium and

fluorine doped in SiO_2 and the depressed cladding region 5 is doped with germanium and fluorine doped in SiO_2 . The doped dispersion optimized fiber of the present invention can be manufactured in accordance to any known process.

5 However, in accordance to one of the preferred embodiments of the present invention the center core 2 of the presently disclosed dispersion optimized fiber 1 is doped with germanium doped in SiO_2 preferably at 55 to 166 SCCm (standard cubic centimeter) flow rate and preferably at 1920 to 1960°C temperature, the first side core 3 is doped with germanium and fluorine doped in
10 SiO_2 preferably at 116 to 130 SCCm flow rate of germanium and preferably at 0.19 to 0.44 SCCm flow rate of fluorine and preferably at 1900 to 1916°C temperature, the second side core 4 is doped with germanium and fluorine doped in SiO_2 preferably at 105 to 115 SCCm flow rate of germanium and preferably at 0.19 to 0.78 SCCm flow rate of fluorine and preferably at 1860 to 1892°C
15 temperature and the depressed cladding region 5 is doped with germanium and fluorine doped in SiO_2 preferably at 90.4 to 100.4 SCCm flow rate of germanium and preferably at 0.75 to 1.1 SCCm flow rate of fluorine and preferably at 1800 to 1844°C temperature.

20 The germanium dioxide (GeO_2) is doped to quartz glass of the center core 2, first side core 3, and second side core 4 to increase the refractive index n_1 , n_2 , n_3 . However, when, the refractive index n_1 , n_2 and n_3 of the center core 2, first side core 3, and second side core 4 respectively is increased only by the doping of GeO_2 , Rayleigh scattering in the glass increases which in turn increases the
25 attenuation of light transmission of the optical fiber. The solution of this problem has been achieved by fluorine doping in the outer cladding region 5. The doping of fluorine decreases the viscosity mismatch between center core 1, first side core 3 and second side core 4 and at the same time increases the total refractive index difference between the core, comprising of center core 2, first side core 3,
30 and second side core 4, and clad 5, that is, it reduces the attenuation by reducing the amount of GeO_2 incorporation in the core.

The dispersion optimized fiber design, as disclosed herein above has a unique profile which results in significantly less microbending sensitivity. Further, it has minimized non-linear effects, such as Four-Wave Mixing (FWM), Self Phase Modulation (SPM), Cross Phase Modulation (XPM) etc. and hence
5 does not cause degradation of signal during high power transmission.

The problems of the non-linearities at higher bandwidth transmission are overcome by the presently disclosed dispersion optimized fiber having above stated characteristics.

10

Figures 2 to 5 illustrate various characteristics of the presently disclosed dispersion optimized fiber. Figure 2 discloses the chromatic dispersion characteristics of dispersion optimized fiber in accordance with the present invention, particularly, it discloses low dispersion and low slope that have been
15 achieved from the preferred combination of refractive indices n_1 , n_2 , n_3 , n_4 and n_5 and diameters $2a$, $2b_1$, $2b_2$, $2b_3$ of the said members, as defined and described herein above, of the refractive index profile of the presently disclosed dispersion optimized fiber.

Figure 3 and figure 4 disclose the details regarding cut-off wavelength, for
20 2-meter reference length and mode field diameter characteristics of the presently disclosed dispersion optimized fiber in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 5 discloses spectral attenuation characteristics of the presently
25 disclosed dispersion optimized fiber in accordance with the present invention, particularly it discloses a combination of low loss in the previously defined C-band and low OH peak, which has been created from the selection of flow rate of the dopants in accordance to the present invention.

30 The dispersion optimized fiber 1 according to the present invention is an optical fiber having a step index profile in case of first side core 3 and second side core 4 and trapezoidal profile in case of the center core 2.

The profile volume of the presently disclosed dispersion optimized fiber can be defined as follows :

$$5 \quad \int_0^a \Delta n(r) r dr + \int_a^{b_1} \Delta n(r) r dr + \int_{b_1}^{b_2} \Delta n(r) r dr + \int_{b_2}^{b_3} \Delta n(r) r dr$$

10 where a , b_1 , b_2 , b_3 are as defined herein above and are characterised by the relationships as described herein above. The calculated profile volume of the presently disclosed dispersion optimized fiber 1 is in the range of 8 % μm^2 to 23 % μm^2 .

15 The refractive index profile of the presently disclosed dispersion optimized fiber 1, as disclosed in figure 1 comprises of a germanium doped silica core, germanium and fluorine doped first and second side cores, germanium, fluorine doped depressed cladding and silica outer cladding, which is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention.

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Claims

1. Dispersion optimized fiber 1 with low dispersion and optical loss comprising a centre core 2, two side cores 3 and 4, a cladding region 5 and an outer glass 6, wherein said centre core 2 has refractive index n_1 , the first side core 3 has refractive index n_2 , the second side core 4 has refractive index n_3 , said cladding region 5 has refractive index n_4 and said outer glass 6 has refractive index n_5 and said centre core 2 has outer diameter $2a$, said first side core 3 has outer diameter $2b_1$, said second side core 4 has outer diameter $2b_2$, said cladding region 5 has outer diameter $2b_3$ and the relative refractive index difference between said center core 2 and said outer glass 6 is Δ_1 , the relative refractive index difference between said first side core 3 and said outer glass 6 is Δ_2 , the relative refractive index difference between said second side core 4 and said outer glass 6 is Δ_3 and the relative refractive index difference between said cladding region 5 and said outer glass 6 is Δ_4 , wherein the refractive indexes n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4 and n_5 of said members 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 respectively are characterized by the following relationship :—
- $$n_4 < n_5 < n_3 < n_2 < n_1, \text{ and}$$
- the relative refractive index differences $\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3$ and Δ_4 between said members 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are characterized by the following relationships :
- $$0.009 \geq \Delta_1 \geq 0.0135$$
- $$0.0009 \geq \Delta_2 \geq 0.0019$$
- $$0.0005 \geq \Delta_3 \geq 0.0009$$
- $$-0.0001 \geq \Delta_4 \geq -0.0006$$
- and the relationship between said relative refractive index differences $\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3$ and Δ_4 between said members 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and said refractive indexes n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4 and n_5 of said members 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 respectively are characterized by the following relationships :
- $$\Delta_1 = n_1 - n_5$$
- $$\Delta_2 = n_2 - n_5$$

$$\Delta_3 = n_3 - n_5 \text{ and}$$

$$\Delta_4 = n_4 - n_5$$

and the outer diameters $2a$, $2b_1$, $2b_2$ and $2b_3$ of said members 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively are characterized by the following relationships :

$$\begin{aligned} 5.1 &\geq 2a \geq 6.2 \text{ } \mu\text{m} \\ 7 &\geq 2b_1 \geq 9 \text{ } \mu\text{m} \\ 13 &\geq 2b_2 \geq 15 \text{ } \mu\text{m} \\ 19 &\geq 2b_3 \geq 22 \text{ } \mu\text{m} \end{aligned}$$

- 10 2. Dispersion optimized fiber according to claim 1, wherein said first side core 3 is provided onto the outer periphery of said center core 2, and said second side core 4 is provided onto the outer periphery of said first side core 3, and said cladding region 5 is provided onto the outer periphery of said second side core 4.
- 15 3. Dispersion optimized fiber according to claims 1 and 2, wherein said cladding region 5 is depressed cladding region.
4. Dispersion optimized fiber according to claims 1 to 3, wherein the ratio of radius ' b_1 ' of said first side core 3 and of radius ' a ' of said centre core 2 [b_1/a] is about 1.5 ± 0.2 , the ratio of radius ' b_2 ' of said second side core 4 and of radius ' a ' of said centre core 2 [b_2/a] is about 2.5 ± 0.2 , the ratio of radius ' b_3 ' of said cladding region 5 and of radius ' a ' of said centre core 2 [b_3/a] is about 3.7 ± 0.2 .
- 20 5. Dispersion optimized fiber according to claims 1 to 4, wherein Δ_1 , Δ_2 and Δ_3 are positive, but Δ_4 is negative with reference to said outer glass 6.
- 25 6. Dispersion optimized fiber according to claims 1 to 5, wherein the attenuation of said fiber 1 at 1550 nm is less than or equal to about 0.22 dB/km, and mode field diameter of said fiber 1 at 1550 nm is about 8.4 to 9.4 micrometer, and effective area of said fiber 1 at 1550 nm is between about 55 to 65 μm^2 , and the cut-off wavelength of said fiber 1 is less than about 1250 nm, and the polarization mode dispersion of said fiber 1 is less than about 0.25 ps/km^{0.5}.
- 30 7. Dispersion optimized fiber according to claims 1 to 5, wherein the

chromatic dispersion of said fiber 1 in 1530 – 1565 nm range is about 2 to 8 ps/nm-km, and the microbending loss of said fiber 1 is less than about 0.04 dB at 1550 nm.

- 5 8. Dispersion optimized fiber according to claims 1 to 5, wherein the dispersion slope of said fiber 1 is about 0.060 ± 0.015 ps/nm²km over the predefined wavelength region, and the zero chromatic dispersion of said fiber 1 lies in between about 1470 – 1510 nm wavelength region.
9. Dispersion optimized fiber according to claims 1 to 8, wherein said side cores 3 & 4 have a step index profile and said center core 2 has
10 trapezoidal profile.
10. Dispersion optimized fiber according to claims 1 to 9, wherein said fiber 1 has calculated profile volume in the range of 8 % μm^2 to 23 % μm^2 .
11. Dispersion optimized fiber according to claims 1 to 10, wherein said center
15 core 2 of said fiber 1 is doped with germanium doped in SiO₂, and said first side core 3 of said fiber 1 is doped with germanium and fluorine doped in SiO₂, said second side core 4 of said fiber 1 is doped with germanium and fluorine doped in SiO₂, said depressed cladding region 5 of said fiber 1 is doped with germanium and fluorine doped in SiO₂.
12. Dispersion optimized fiber according to claim 11, wherein said center core
20 2 is doped preferably at 55 to 166 SCCm flow rate and preferably at 1920 to 1960°C temperature, and said first side core 3 is doped preferably at 116 to 130 SCCm flow rate of germanium and preferably at 0.19 to 0.44 SCCm flow rate of fluorine and preferably at 1900 to 1916°C temperature, and said second side core 4 is doped preferably at 105 to 115 SCCm flow
25 rate of germanium and preferably at 0.19 to 0.78 SCCm flow rate of fluorine and preferably at 1860 to 1892°C temperature and said depressed cladding region 5 is preferably at 90.4 to 100.4 SCCm flow rate of germanium and preferably at 0.75 to 1.1 SCCm flow rate of fluorine and preferably at 1800 to 1844°C temperature.
- 30 13. Dispersion optimized fiber as claimed and described herein above with the help of the accompanying figures.

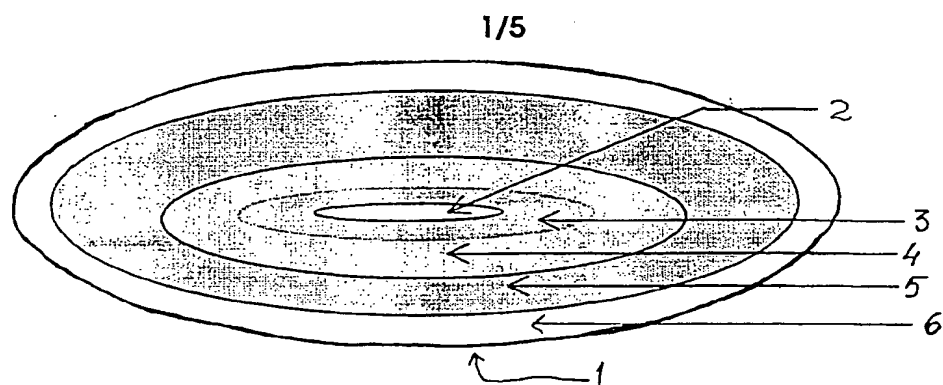


Figure - 1a

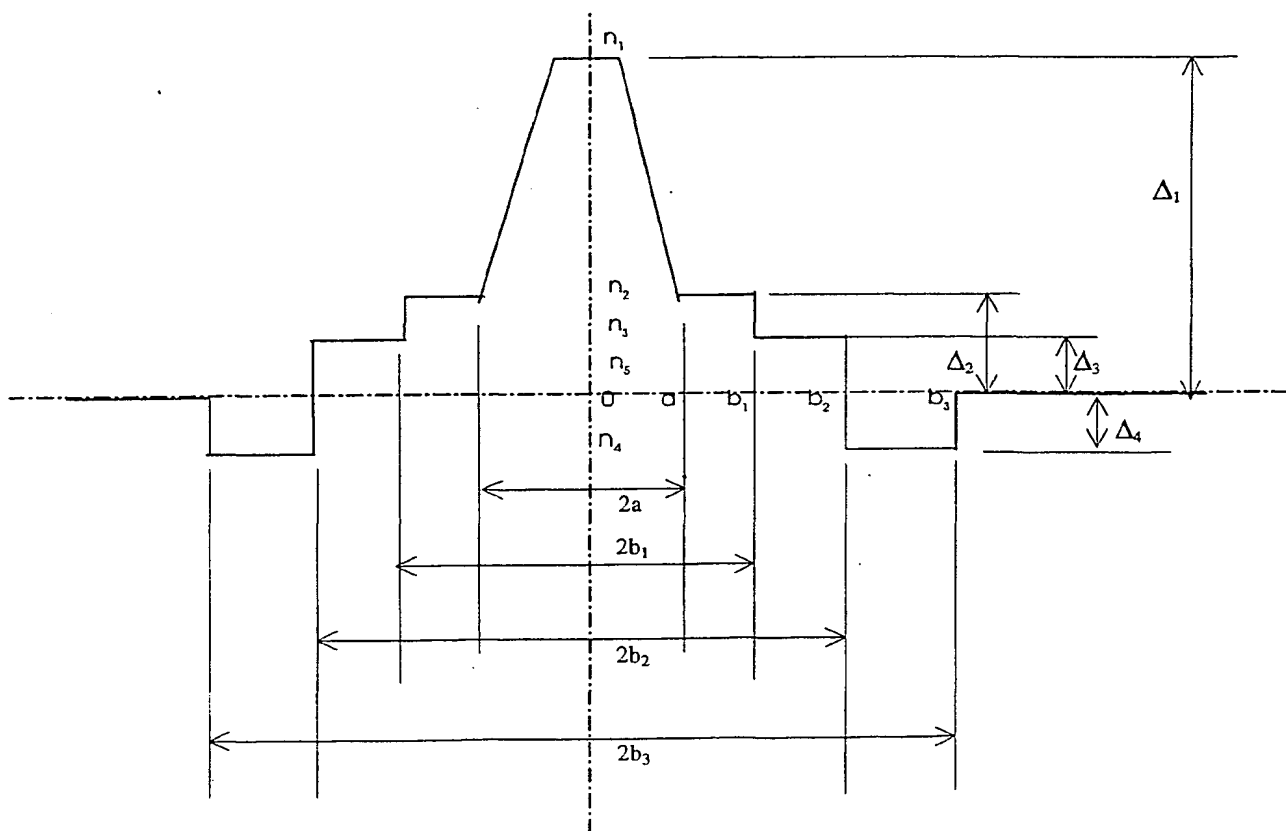


Figure - 1b

Figure - 1

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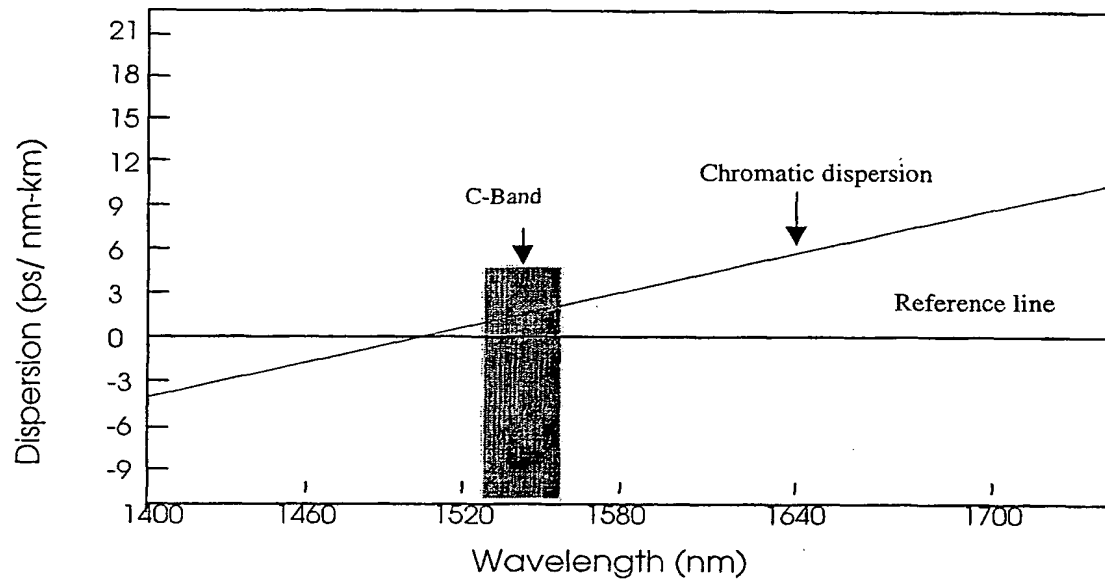


Figure - 2

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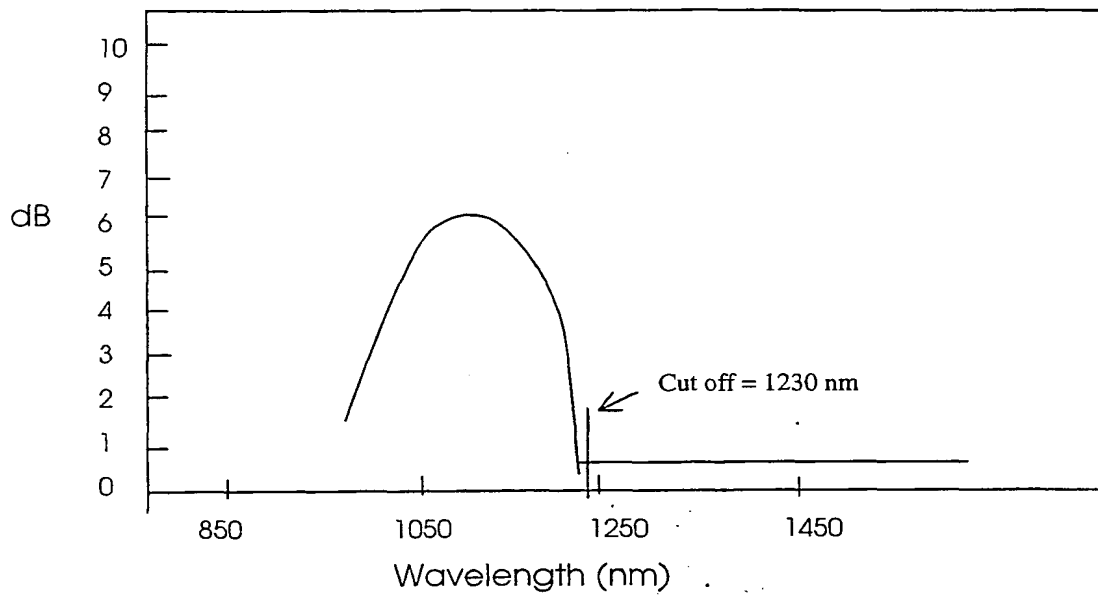


Figure - 3

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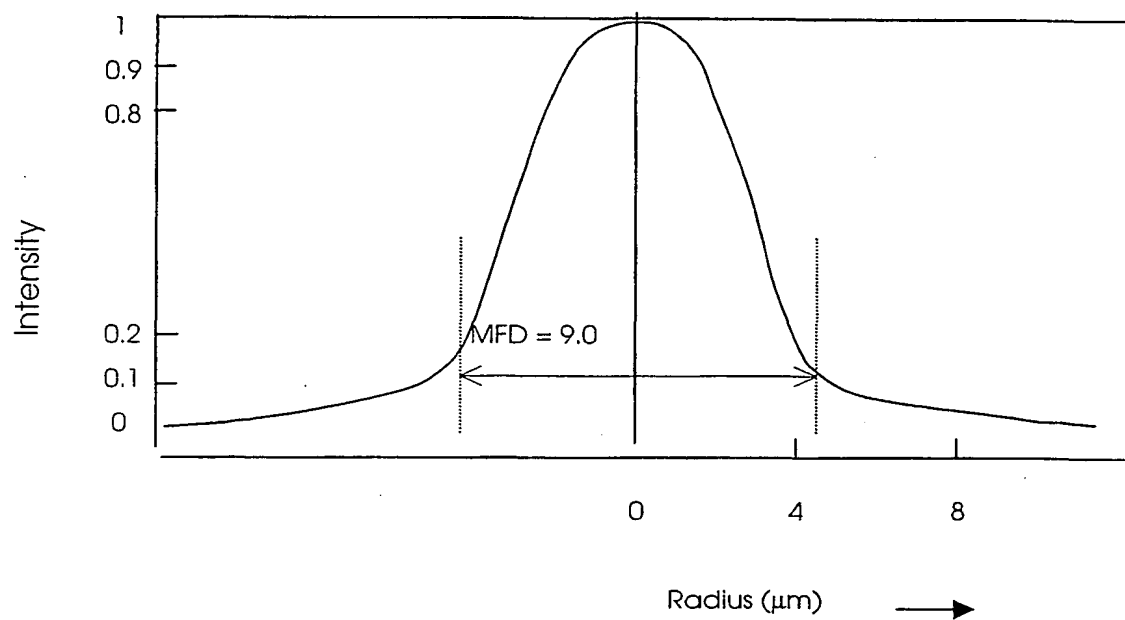


Figure - 4

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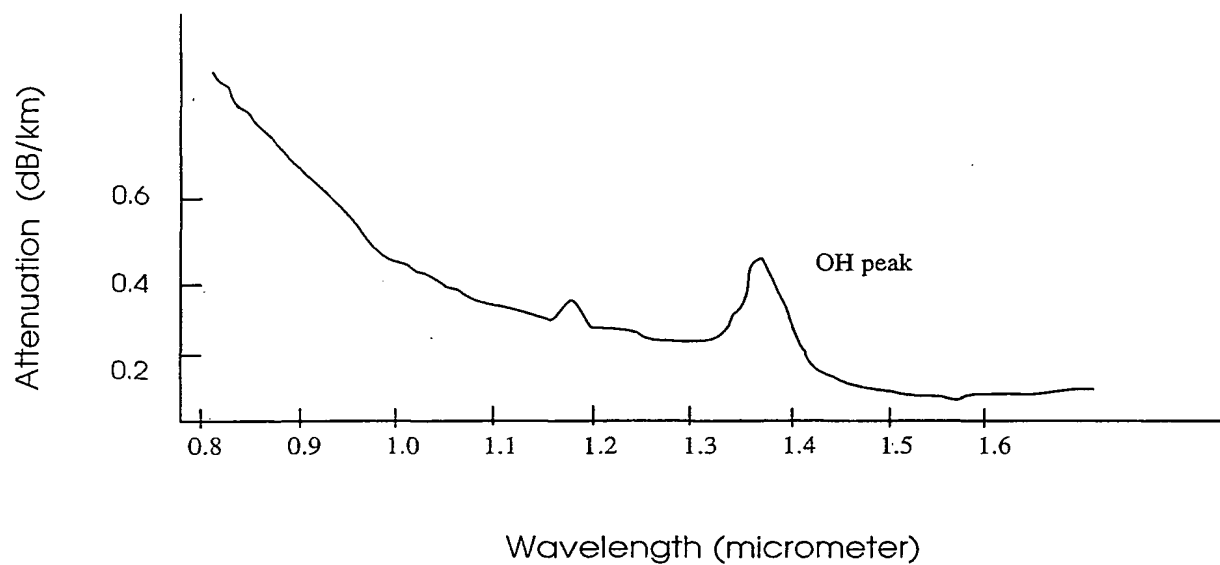


Figure - 5

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern: l Application No

PCT/IN 00/00092

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G02B6/22 G02B6/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G02B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

PAJ, EPO-Internal, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 12, 31 October 1998 (1998-10-31) & JP 10 186156 A (FURUKAWA ELECTRIC CO LTD:THE), 14 July 1998 (1998-07-14) abstract	1,2,9
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 13, 30 November 1999 (1999-11-30) & JP 11 218632 A (FURUKAWA ELECTRIC CO LTD:THE), 10 August 1999 (1999-08-10) abstract	1,2
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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21/08/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Mathyssek, K

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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